

Biggest Fears Answered

Some tips on how to handle issues that might be difficult to navigate.



1 Only a few people are talking.

1. "What do other people think?"
2. Call on specific individuals for their ideas.

2 No one is talking.

1. Allow for awkward silence.
2. Give a writing prompt and have students respond on an index card without including their name; shuffle and redistribute the cards, and have each student read aloud.

3 Only one viewpoint is being shared.

1. "I hear people saying _____. Does everyone agree?"
2. "What might be a different perspective on this? Have you heard other people thinking about this differently?"

4 Misinformation is shared.

1. "I appreciate you adding that, I have heard it spoken about this way..."
2. "I have heard that before. The facts of that situation are actually..."

5 Someone brings up a topic you aren't ready to tackle.

1. "Whew. That's a big topic that I think we should discuss. Let's dedicate more time to that at a later time. Right now we are talking about..."

6 You are behind in the schedule and a great conversation is happening.

1. Be flexible and allow the conversation to happen and finish the rest of the agenda at a later time.

7 Someone makes a biased statement.

1. "What you just said is problematic to me because I disagree that all people are..."
2. "I want to challenge that statement and offer an alternative idea that"

8 Side conversations are happening.

1. Stop the larger conversation and ask the people side-talking if they are talking about the subject matter. If so, tell them you want to hear it too, and offer them a chance to engage the larger group when the person speaking is finished.
2. If they are not talking about the subject, ask them to have the conversation after class.

9 You get personally offended.

1. Take a deep breath.
2. "What has led you to think this way?"

10 There is a conflict.

1. "Remember our ground rules"
2. If it escalates, shut it down and ask the students to stay after class or check in with them later to discuss.